

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-7 (Cancelled).

8. (Currently amended) A fluid introduction system, comprising:  
an introducer configured to introduce fluid into a spine of a patient;  
an operator configured to actuate the introducer to introduce fluid into the spine of the patient;  
a computer readable medium having code that, when executed by a computer, receives for receiving:  
fluid introduction data indicative of a fluid introduction parameter;  
response data indicative of pain level of a response of the patient at a time related to a time of the fluid introduction data; and  
response data, input separately from the pain level data, indicative of concordance of the response of the patient at the time related to the time of the fluid introduction data, the concordance data indicating whether the pain level response of the patient is a result of a pain symptom or is a result of pain unrelated to the pain symptom.

9. (Original) The fluid introduction system of claim 8, wherein the fluid introduction parameter is a pressure within an intervertebral disc of the patient at the time of the fluid introduction data.

10. (Original) The fluid introduction system of claim 8, wherein the fluid introduction parameter is a total amount of fluid introduced into an intervertebral disc of the patient at the time of the fluid introduction data.

11. (Original) The fluid introduction system of claim 8, wherein the fluid introduction system is configured to obtain the response data from an observation of the patient.

12. (Previously presented) The fluid introduction system of claim 8, wherein the fluid introduction system is configured to obtain the response data upon a response inputted by the patient.

13. (Original) The fluid introduction system of claim 8, wherein the introducer is configured to create a pressure of at least 100 kPa within the spine.

14. (Currently amended) A fluid introduction system, comprising:  
an introducer configured to introduce a non-pulsatile flow of fluid into a spine, the introducer having a flow rate-dependent impedance opposing the introduction of the fluid; and  
an operator configured to actuate the introducer, the operator including code to empirically determine impedance data indicative of the flow rate-dependent impedance based upon pressure and volume of fluid dispensed during an actuation of the introducer prior to insertion of the introducer into the spine and to control the actuation of the introducer based at least in part upon the impedance data, wherein, using the determined impedance data, the code corrects pressure data for differences between the pressure created within the spine by the introduction of fluid and the pressure of fluid within the introducer.

15. (Original) The fluid introduction system of claim 14, wherein the introducer includes an identifier including the impedance data and the operator is configured to receive the impedance data from the identifier of the introducer.

16. (Cancelled)

17. (Previously presented) The fluid introduction system of claim 14, comprising:  
a pressure sensor configured to provide pressure data indicative of a pressure of fluid present in the introducer;  
a fluid introduction sensor configured to provide fluid introduction data indicative of at least one of (a) a rate of fluid introduction and (b) an amount of fluid introduced into the portion of the spine; and  
wherein the operator includes code to determine the impedance data based upon the pressure data and the fluid introduction data.

18. (Original) The fluid introduction system of claim 14, wherein the introducer is configured to create a pressure of at least 69 kPa within the spine.

Claims 19-37. (Cancelled)

38. (Previously presented) The fluid introduction system of claim 8, further comprising a sliding device.

39. (Previously presented) The fluid introduction system of claim 38, wherein the response data comprises data inputted directly by the patient using the sliding device.

40. (Previously Presented) The fluid introduction system of claim 39, wherein the sliding device is correlated to a visual analog scale (VAS) from 0-10 and includes an axis for relating level of concordance, non-concordance, or concordance and non-concordance of the pain.

41. (Previously Presented) The fluid introduction system of claim 8, wherein the response data comprises observed physiological parameters.

42. (Withdrawn) The fluid introduction system of claim 41, wherein observed physiological parameters comprises electromyographic response data.

43. (Withdrawn) The fluid introduction system of claim 41, wherein observed physiological parameters comprises audiovisual recordings of facial responses.

44. (Previously Presented) The fluid introduction system of claim 8, wherein the response data is correlated with actual measurements of disc pressure and a volume of fluid introduced into one or more discs.

45. (Previously Presented) The fluid introduction system of claim 8, wherein the introducer comprises a needle configured for insertion into a spine.

46. (Currently amended) A fluid introduction system, comprising:  
an introducer configured to introduce fluid into a spine of a patient;  
an operator configured to actuate the introducer to introduce fluid into the spine of the patient;

a computer readable medium having code that, when executed by a computer, receives for  
~~receiving:~~

fluid introduction data indicative of a fluid introduction parameter; and  
response data indicative of pain level and concordance of a response of the patient inputted separately by hand by the patient at a time related to a time of the fluid introduction data, wherein the concordance response data indicates whether the pain level of the patient is a result of a pain symptom or is a result of pain unrelated to the pain symptom.

47. (Previously Presented) The fluid introduction system of claim 46, wherein the response data is correlated with actual measurements of disc pressure and a volume of fluid introduced into one or more discs.

48. (Previously presented) The fluid introduction system of claim 46, further comprising a sliding device.

49. (Previously presented) The fluid introduction system of claim 48, wherein the response data comprises data inputted directly by the patient using the sliding device.

50. (Previously Presented) The fluid introduction system of claim 49, wherein the sliding device is correlated to a visual analog scale (VAS) from 0-10 and includes an axis for relating level of concordance, non-concordance, or concordance and non-concordance of the pain.

51. (Withdrawn) A fluid introduction system, comprising:  
an introducer configured to introduce fluid into a spine of a patient;  
an operator configured to actuate the introducer to introduce fluid into the spine of the patient;  
a computer readable medium having code for receiving:  
fluid introduction data indicative of a fluid introduction parameter; and  
response data indicative of a response of the patient at a time related to a time of the fluid introduction data, wherein the response data comprises electromyographic response data.

52. (Previously Presented) The fluid introduction system of claim 48, wherein the response data is correlated with actual measurements of disc pressure and a volume of fluid introduced into one or more discs.

53. (Withdrawn) A fluid introduction system, comprising:  
an introducer configured to introduce fluid into a spine of a patient;  
an operator configured to actuate the introducer to introduce fluid into the spine of the patient;  
a computer readable medium having code for receiving:  
fluid introduction data indicative of a fluid introduction parameter; and  
response data indicative of a response of the patient at a time related to a time of the fluid introduction data, wherein the response data comprises an audiovisual recording of a patient response.

54. (Previously Presented) The fluid introduction system of claim 50, wherein the response data is correlated with actual measurements of disc pressure and a volume of fluid introduced into one or more discs.

55. (Previously Presented) The fluid introduction system of claim 14, wherein the impedance data comprises a gauge of a fluid introduction member.

56. (Previously Presented) The fluid introduction system of claim 14, wherein the impedance data comprises a length of a fluid introduction member.

57. (Previously presented) The fluid introduction system of claim 14, wherein the impedance data comprises an inner diameter of a fluid conduit.

58. (Previously presented) The fluid introduction system of claim 14, wherein the impedance data comprises a length of a fluid conduit.

Claims 59-61. (Cancelled)

62. (Currently amended) A fluid introduction system, comprising:  
an introducer configured to introduce fluid into a spine of a patient;  
an operator configured to actuate the introducer to introduce fluid into the spine of the patient;  
a computer readable medium having code that, when executed by a computer, receives for receiving:  
fluid introduction data indicative of a fluid introduction parameter; and  
response data indicative of pain level and concordance of a response of the patient, the concordance data indicating whether the pain level response of the patient is a result of a pain symptom or is a result of pain unrelated to the pain symptom, wherein the pain level and concordance response data are inputted separately by the patient at a time related to a time of the fluid introduction data using a sliding device.

63. (Previously presented) The fluid introduction system of claim 62, further comprising the sliding device.

64. (Previously presented) The fluid introduction system of claim 63, wherein the sliding device is correlated to a visual analog scale (VAS) from 0-10 and includes an axis for relating level of concordance, non-concordance, or concordance and non-concordance of the pain.

65. (Previously presented) The fluid introduction system of claim 64, wherein the response data is correlated with actual measurements of disc pressure and a volume of fluid introduced into one or more discs.

66. (Previously presented) The fluid introduction system of claim 62, wherein the response data is correlated with actual measurements of disc pressure and a volume of fluid introduced into one or more discs.

67. (Currently amended) A fluid introduction system for performing discography diagnosis, comprising:

an introducer configured to introduce fluid into a spine of a patient;

a computer readable medium having code that, when executed by a computer, receives for receiving:

fluid introduction data indicative of a fluid introduction parameter;

pain level data of the patient responsive to the fluid introduction data; and

concordance data, input separately from the pain level data, indicating whether the pain level of the patient is a result of a pain symptom or is a result of pain unrelated to the pain symptom, wherein the discography diagnosis is based upon the correlation between the pain level and concordance data and the fluid introduction data.

68. (Currently amended) A fluid introduction system for performing discography diagnosis, comprising:

an introducer configured to introduce fluid into a spine of a patient;

a computer readable medium having code that, when executed by a computer, receives for receiving:

fluid introduction data indicative of a fluid introduction parameter; and

response data indicative of pain level and concordance, concordance indicating whether the pain level response of the patient is a result of a pain symptom or is a result of pain unrelated to the pain symptom, inputted separately by hand by the patient, wherein the discography diagnosis is based upon the correlation between the response data and the fluid introduction data.

69. (New) The system of claim 8 wherein the concordance data is input concurrently with the pain level data.



70. (New) The system of claim 67 wherein the concordance data is input concurrently with the pain level data.